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May '07

NatureKenya
Connecting nature & people

nature net

at the Nairobi Arboretum's Tree Centre

Arboretum Centennial lecture:

Chin Ong
(from World Agroforestry Centre)

Bamboos for biodiversity, environment and livelihoods

Thur 31 May 5:30 p.m.

(Entrance fee 100 Shillings, students free. Coffee and tea is served from 5 pm. Guarded parking space provided)

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Welcome new member: Woburn Residence Club

Woburn Residence Club
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Can you place Nature Kenya subscription forms at your office or shop?- we'd be pleased to hear from you!

MAY AT A GLIMPSE

THU 3	SAMAKI OUTING
SAT 5	FONA AGM
TUES 8	EANHS AGM
SAT 12	TREE WALK & HIKING DAY
SAT 12 & 13	WMBD CELEBRATIONS
SUN 20	SUNDAY BIRDWALK
MON 28	TREE WALK
THU 31	BAMBOOS WITH CHIN ONG

BIRDWALKS EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING
BIRD RINGING EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

Editorial Team

Editor — Catherine Ngarachu
Evening Skies — Fleur Ng'weno
Naturalist — Dino Martins
Action — Serah Munguti

www.worldmigratorybirdday.org

World Migratory Bird Day

12 - 13 May

This global event is devoted to the beauty of migrating birds and their conservation. This year, the immense threats to migrating birds caused by climate change will be its main focus. Climate change has severe consequences for these nomads of the skies: it causes the loss of essential bird habitats, changes migration patterns and increases the competition for food between migrating birds and residents.

Join us in celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2007 with Site Support Groups

May 12th:

Kereita Environmental Volunteers
Birding at the Bathi dam, procession through Kimende town, tree planting, talks and a video. Meet at 8.30 a.m. at the old Kijabe Environment Volunteers office at Kimende town. Refreshments will be served after the event

Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association
Birding excursion to Arabuko Sokoke Forest and Mida Creek. Meet at the Kenya Wildlife Service Visitor Centre, Gede at 6.30 a.m.

Friends of Kinangop Plateau Magumu/ Nyakio and Njabini
Birding excursion and talks at Semini's Dam 9.00 a.m. meet at Kinamba Shopping Centre Refreshments will be served after the event

May 13th:

Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association
Birding excursion to Sabaki River mouth 8:00 am: participants from Mombasa and Watamu meet at the Gede/Watamu junction Mobil petrol station. 9:00 am: all participants convene in Malindi at the Total petrol station roundabout, Lamu road Contact Jonathan 0724440374, David 0734652610

Friends of Nairobi Arboretum Annual General Meeting:

Sat 5 May 11:00a.m.

at the Arboretum Tree Centre

Annual General Meeting

of the **East Africa Natural History Society**

Tuesday 8 May, 4:00 p.m.
at the Louis Leakey Hall, National Museums, Nairobi

Don't miss this most talked-about film to feature immediately after the AGM

An Inconvenient Truth

Former Vice President of the United States Al Gore, in a persuasive argument on global warming.

With short analysis of the Kenya situation by former UNEP Chief of the Atmosphere Programme - Peter Usher

Bring along a friend!
Stay on for Bar-be-que and drinks (cash bar)
Contributions to the tea table most welcome!

From Nairobi: Nature Day out

Sat 12 May

Meet at 7.30 a.m. at the National Museum car park (near the Langi Langi cafeteria). Transport by car pool. Cost 500/- per person, 250/- children under 12yrs

Book by Tuesday 8 May and bring a packed lunch, water, hat and KWS Smart Card

Namanga Trip

Fri 1st to Sun 3rd June

Hiking, birdwatching and learning about amphibians around the Ol Donyo-Orok hills. Camp by the hills. Bring tent, sleeping bag, good walking shoes, water bottle, a hat and guide book.

Cost KShs. 2000/- per person which includes food, camping fees and transport. Please carry a packed lunch for 1st June.

New hope for Dakatcha Woodlands

Photo: by Alex Ngori

Alex Ngari
Biodiversity Database Manager,
Nature Kenya

Locoted in the remote hinterlonds of Molindi, this Important Bird Areo hos so for received little conservation attention despite its importance. Field surveys to Dakotcho Woodlonds canducted by Noture Kenyo ond colloboroting orgonisotions confirmed the intense pressure from human activities on this site. In this woodlond is found the globolly threotened Clorke's Weover *Ploceus golandi* thot is thought to breed here. The only other site hosting the Clorke's Weover is the neighbauring Arabuka-Sakake Farest Reserve, but no breeding sites for this bird hove been discovered there.

Funding secured from the Criticol Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), will ollow Noture Kenyo to undertake a twa-yeor programme to build the copocity of the locol community to engoge in octive conservotion to sustoinobly manage this natural area.

Leoding threots ot Dokotcho include encroochment, lock of fovouroble olternotives for eorning o living ond o fierce demond for chorcool ond timber from the neorby urbon centres.

BIOTA Football Tournament Cup at Kakamega Forest

Joel Siele
Conservation Programme Officer
Nature Kenya

From the 10 teams who registered for the BIOTA Football Tournament, the Footboll Clubs Buyongu ond Bulchoywo mode it to the finols held on 25 Morch 07 ot Buyongu Primary School playing graund. The tournoment provides o meons to engage the suppart of lacal communities on issues pertoining to the conservation of Kakamega Farest.

There were more thon 2000 people who come to cheer their fovorite teom on the finols. Besides Noture Kenya there were alsa representatives from Kakamega Environmentol Educotion Programme (Buyangu Branch members), Pravincial Administrotion, Kenyo Wildlife Service ond Medio (Rodio Citizen). To wind up the doy more thon 400 tree seedlings were issued to ployers ond locol residents.

Bulchaywa Faatball Club wan 3 goals ta nil

Appeal: This tournament was spansared by Robert Gliniors who is doing reseorch on plonts in Kokomego Forest. If you con sponsor or help to find sponsorship for next yeors' (2008) tournoment pleose contoct the Noture Kenyo Conservotion Progromme.

HELPING WITH WATER CONSERVATION

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WATER RETAINERS FOR FORESTRY & TREE CROPS
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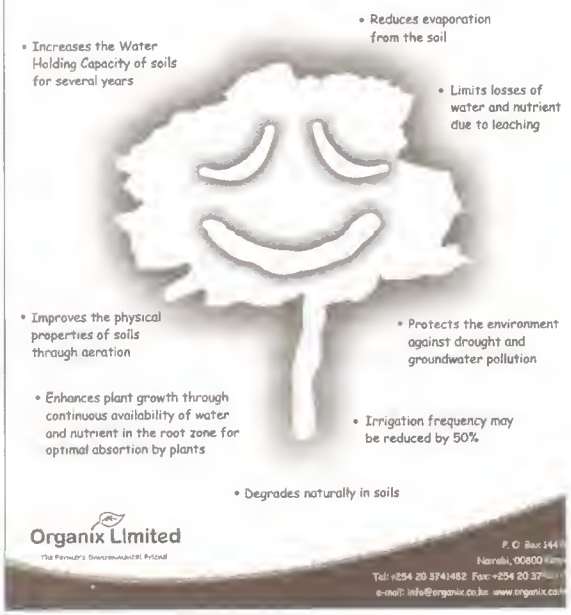
• Reduces evaporation from the soil
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Resource centres Open to the Public

The Kikuyu Escarpment and Kinangop Resource centres are now open to the public.

The Kikuyu Escorpment Centre is neor completion ond the Kijobe Environmentol Volunteers (o Noture Kenyo Site Support Group) hove started on environmentol educotion ond oworeness progromme at the centre. More thon 700 community members hove benefited ond more thon sixty children hove visited since the centre wos opened in December 2006. In April this yeor KENVO moved their offices to the centre.

At Kinangop, the Resource Centre opened in Februory 2007. Before the current school holidoys, more thon one hundred children hod visited the centre, ond received environmentol educotion through tolks, videos ond interoctive sessions. The two centres ore looking forword to o very busy time when schools re-open in May.

The Europeon Union Biodiversity Conservotion Progromme funded the construction of both resource cemtres.

Evening Sky May 2007

Ian Mackay and Fleur Ng'weno

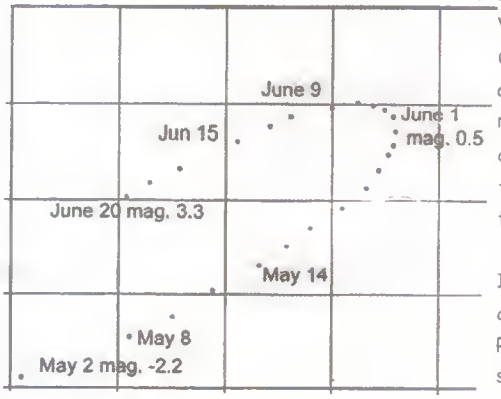
Moon phases, May 2007

Full moon - 2 May; Last quarter - 10 May;
New moon - 16 May;
First quarter - 23 May

Planets' magnitude, May 2007

Magnitude is the observed brightness of an astronomical object. Higher values are less bright than lower values. Values are often negative for the bright inner planets. Planets are listed according to their distance from the sun. Mercury -2.2 to 0.5; Venus -4.1 to -4.3; Mars 1.0 to 0.8; Jupiter -2.5 to -2.6; Saturn 0.5;

Planets, May 2007



Mercury is in the evening sky, low over the sunset. It appears brightest on May 2nd and rises higher during the whole of this month and the first week of June. Mercury seems to move around a lot in a short time. The diagram shows the curve of Mercury's path while in the evening sky in May and June 2007.

Venus is low in the west in the evening, and can be seen for only a few hours. On May 19, Venus stands right between the stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation Gemini. On both the 19th and 20th Venus is spectacular near the Moon.

Mars is only visible in the morning at a magnitude of 1.0 (rather faint).

Saturn is high in the sky at sunset, west of the constellation Leo the Lion. The star cluster M44 is just below Saturn. It is best seen through binoculars. On May 22 the Moon passes within one degree of Saturn (only 35 seconds south).

Jupiter rises in the east at sunset and can be seen all night. On May 5, Jupiter, the Moon and the reddish star Antares in the constellation Scorpius are very close to each other.

May Stars

Very bright stars include Sirius and Canopus, now setting in the southwest; orange-coloured Arcturus high in the northeast; blue-white Spica overhead; and two stars of the Centaur near the Southern Cross. On May 28 the moon is just south of Spica.

In the northern sky, below Arcturus and Leo, is the constellation of the Plough or Big Dipper. Look for the shape of a box with a long handle.

In the southern sky is the small constellation of Crux, the Southern Cross. East of the cross are the two bright stars of the Centaur. The Milky Way, a pale band of millions of stars, stretches across the southern sky.

The constellation Scorpius the scorpion is rising, low in the east. On May 4, the moon occults its reddish star Antares. That is, the moon passes between us and Antares.

In the first week of May, the Earth passes through an area of dust and rocks in space. Some of the dust and rock may fall into the Earth's atmosphere and burn up, forming meteors or "shooting stars".

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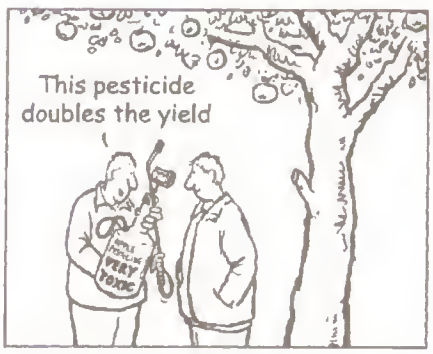

For more Chris Madden cartoons buy his book "The Beast that ate the Earth" from his website

www.chrismadden.org

UP & ABOUT

DECLARATION

NATURE KENYA DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER IN RESPECT OF NEGLIGENCE OF ANY OF ITS STAFF, VOLUNTEERS OR MEMBERS ORGANISING THE OUTINGS/TRIPS OR FOR ANY LOSS, INJURY, DEATH OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

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Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya. Guest House rotes: Day visit 350/-

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BIRDWALKS

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park near Langi Langi cafe, every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park near Langi Langi cafe at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, i.e. **20 MAY. '07**. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

KINANGOP BIRDING

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. **18 MAY. 07** at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

FFJ BIRDWALK (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month, i.e. **19 MAY. '07**. Pleose call Marlene Reid on 2491648 or 0720 949195 to confirm

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (Coast)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **5 MAY. '07, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

LAKE VICTORIA SUNSET BIRDERS (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

MT KENYA BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GROUP (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Noro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. **26 MAY.'07.**

For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every last Saturday i.e. **26 MAY. '07**. Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. 12 and **28 MAY 07** from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

NGONG ROAD FOREST WALKS

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first ond third Saturdays of the month i.e. **12 & 19 MAY '07, at 9:00** a.m. Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Ignatius ;to confirm on 3875207 or 0720 976299.

SAMAKI DAYS

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. **3 MAY '07** from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival

Yes! *Start my Nature Kenya membership*

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